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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
1962-1992

STAN LEE PRESENTS:
SPIDER-MAN 2099
THOU ART AN ENEMY OF THE HARBINGER OF THOR!
THAT MAKES THEE OUR ENEMY AS WELL!
PREPARE TO BE THOROUGHLY SMITED!
GET BACK, YOU IDIOTS! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH!
BUT I KNEW. I KNEW WHAT VENTURE WAS CAPABLE OF. I DON'T KNOW WHERE THOSE THORITES POPPED OUT FROM. THE CITY SEEMS TO BE CRAWLING WITH THEM LATELY. BUT I KNEW THAT IF THEY TRIED TO SLUG IT OUT WITH VENTURE, THAT THERE WOULD BE...
GETTING ALL THIS, LYLA?
OF COURSE, MIGUEL. I'M IN FULL RECORD MODE.
'NOTHING GAINED.'
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RICK LEONARDI PENCILER
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RICK PARKER LETTERER
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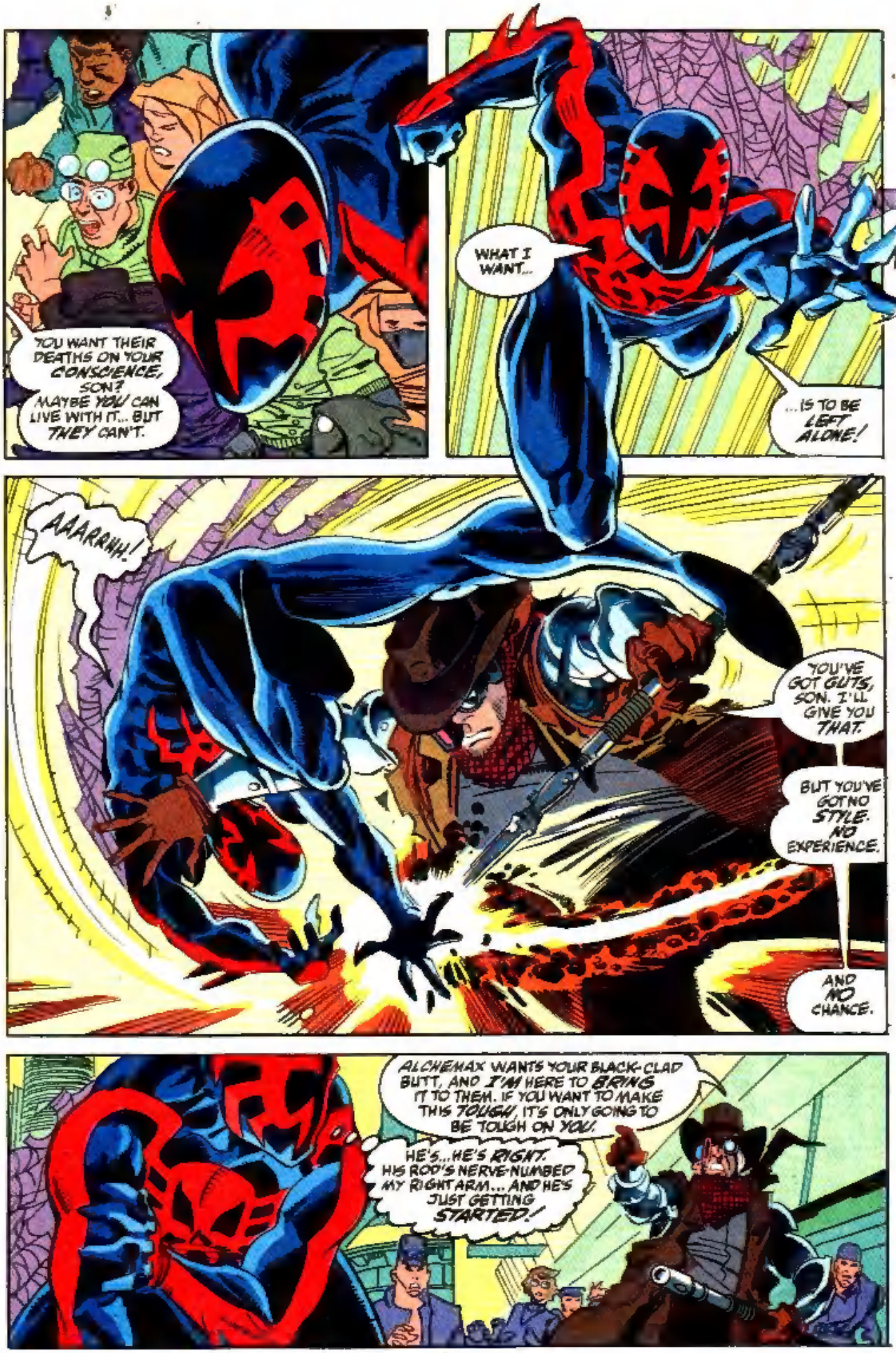
AT THAT POINT, I WAS JUST TRYING TO THROW VENTURE OFF THE SCENT...
WORLD'S GREATEST BRAIN
...THE SCENT THAT WOULD HAVE LED STRAIGHT TO ME IF I'D LET IT.
INSTEAD, THOSE IDIOT THOR WORSHIPPERS GOT IN THE WAY, AND...
...IT WAS HORRIBLE.
I CAN KEEP THIS JUGGLING ACT GOING ALL DAY, SON.
'LESS IT BORES ME.
THEN PEOPLE START DYING.
EEEYYAAH!


YOU WANT THEIR DEATHS ON YOUR CONSCIENCE, SON? MAYBE YOU CAN LIVE WITH IT... BUT THEY CAN'T.
WHAT I WANT...
...IS TO BE LEFT ALONE!
AAARRHH!
YOU'VE GOT GUTS, SON. I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.
BUT YOU'VE GOT NO STYLE. NO EXPERIENCE.
AND NO CHANCE.
ALCHEMAX WANTS YOUR BLACK-CLAD BUTT, AND I'M HERE TO BRING IT TO THEM. IF YOU WANT TO MAKE THIS TOUGH, IT'S ONLY GOING TO BE TOUGH ON YOU!
HE'S...HE'S RIGHT. HIS ROD'S NERVE-NUMBED MY RIGHT ARM... AND HE'S JUST GETTING STARTED!

THIS IS INSANE. THE LAST TIME I WAS IN A SERIOUS FIGHT, I WAS SIX YEARS OLD... AND I GOT CLOBBERED!
AND NOW I'M TRYING TO SLUG IT OUT WITH ALCHEMAX'S NUMBER ONE HIRED CYBORGS? WHAT WAS I THINKING?!
OVOSHI
WELL... "SPIDER-MAN?"
IN THE NAME OF THOR, GOD OF THUNDER, I--
SHUT UP, KID! I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU!
GRRRKHH!
IN FACT, YOU'RE SUCH A WASTE OF PROTOPLASM, I DON'T THINK ANYONE WILL BENEFIT FROM TALKING TO YOU.
MAYBE... MAYBE ALCHEMAX WILL GIVE ME A BREAK. MAYBE IF I SURRENDER, WE CAN WORK THINGS OUT. I CAN TALK TO THEM. TALKING'S MY STRONG SUIT. NOT HEROICS.
STILL CAN'T MOVE MY RIGHT ARM. MY LEFT ARM ITCHES SOMETHING FIERCE. ENOUGH'S ENOUGH. TIME TO PACK IT IN AND GIVE UP--
IN CASE YOU THOUGHT I WAS KIDDING, SPIDER-MAN...
I DON'T KID. AND I DON'T SCARE. BUT I DON'T THINK YOU CAN SAY THE SAME. I CAN SMELL YOUR FEAR FROM HERE, AND YOU'RE SMART TO BE SCARED.
BALDER'S DEAD! HE'S DEAD! THE FIRST SIGN OF THE END IS UPON US!
HEY, KILL ONE OF YOU OR ALL OF YOU... MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME. I'M ON OVERTIME.
HOW MANY MORE DIE WILL DEPEND ENTIRELY ON THE MAN IN BLACK

WELL, NOW THIS IS JUST PLAIN STUPID, SON.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PROVE ANYTHING TO ME. IN FACT, YOU CAN'T...
...EXCEPT MAYBE THAT YOU AREN'T AS SMART AS I THOUGHT YOU W--
SHUT UP!
OOOOF!

HIT AND RUN, EH?
NOT THE WAY A REAL MAN DOES BUSINESS.
GOT TO IGNORE HIS YAMMERING. IT'S JUST DESIGNED TO DISTRACT ME... AND SO FAR, IT'S WORKED.
NAMELY, RETRACE THE PATH YOU TOOK WHEN YOU WERE JUST PLAIN, CONFUSED MIGUEL O'HARA, STAGGERING HOME WITH YOUR BRAND NEW SPIDERPOWERS.
DO THIS BY THE NUMBERS. GO BACK TO YOUR ORIGINAL PLAN.
THAT'S THE HEAT PATH VENTURE WAS TRACING. THE PATH THAT WOULD HAVE BROUGHT HIM STRAIGHT TO YOUR APARTMENT.
BY DOUBLE-TRACKING OVER IT, I'LL WIPE IT OUT. AND HOPEFULLY, IT WON'T OCCUR TO VENTURE THAT I'M FOLLOWING MY OWN TRAIL. AFTER ALL, I'D HAVE TO BE OUT OF MY MIND TO DELIBERATELY LEAD HIM RIGHT TO MY OWN PLACE.
AT LEAST, I HOPE THAT'S WHAT HE THINKS. OTHERWISE, I'M DEAD.
DROP DEAD, MIGUEL.
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE BROTHERS, BUT YOU TREAT ME LIKE--
HUH?
BAB

OUT OF THE WAY!
IT...IT CAN'T BE... WAS THAT...?
MOVE IT OR LOSE IT, BOY. I'M IN PURSUIT HERE.
WELCOME TO BABYLON TOWERS, SIR. MAY I BE OF ASSISTANCE?
BABYLON TOWERS
NO.
INFRA RED SCAN
HE'S RUNNING SCARED. THINKS HE CAN HIDE.
POOR KID. I ALMOST PITY HIM.

252 EAST
PLEASE EXIT
I FEEL LIKE AN IDIOT IN THIS COSTUME. WEARING IT IN MEXICO FOR THE "DAY OF THE DEAD" FESTIVAL WAS ONE THING, BUT THIS...
I HOPE NOBODY RECOGNIZES ME.
AAACCCK
THEN AGAIN, THAT'S THE LEAST OF MY PROBLEMS RIGHT NOW.
TAKING LIVES IS BAD ENOUGH, BUT NOW YOU'RE FORCING ME TO USE PLASMA BOLTS ON INNOCENT MACHINERY JUST TO GET TO YOU, SON.
WHEN'S IT GOING TO END?

HELLO, MIGUEL. YOU'RE HOME EARLY. YOU HAVE TWO CALLS FROM--
NOT NOW!

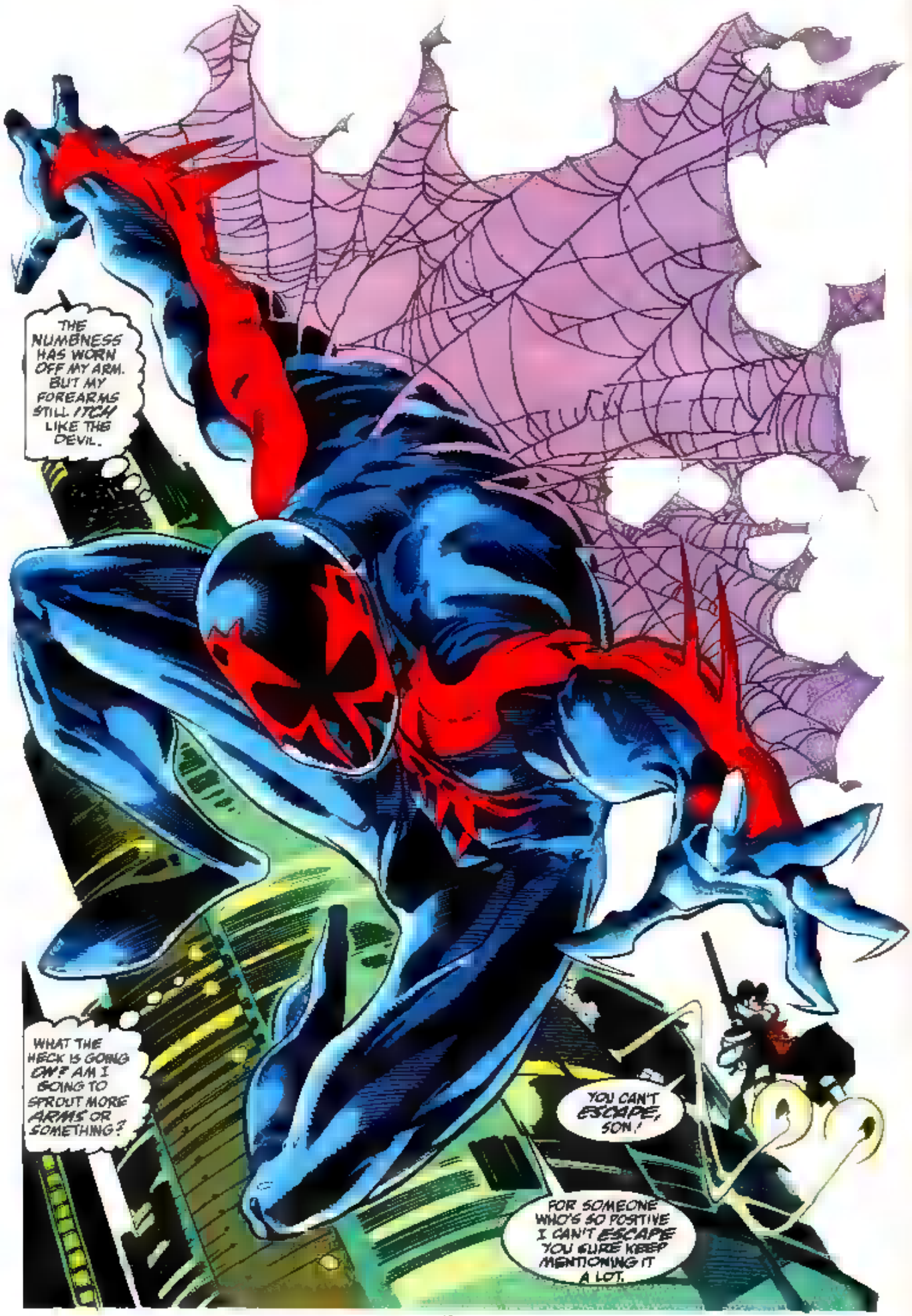
LYLA, LISTEN! I WANT YOU TO POINT RIGHT THERE AND REPEAT AFTER ME:
"THERE WAS A HORRIBLE MAN IN BLACK! AND HE WENT THROUGH THERE!"
OKAY, LYLA? GOOD GIRL!

THERE WAS A HORRIBLE MAN IN BLACK!

AND HE WENT THROUGH THERE!
I CAN SEE THAT. THANKS.

OKAY, LYLA?
GOOD GIRL!

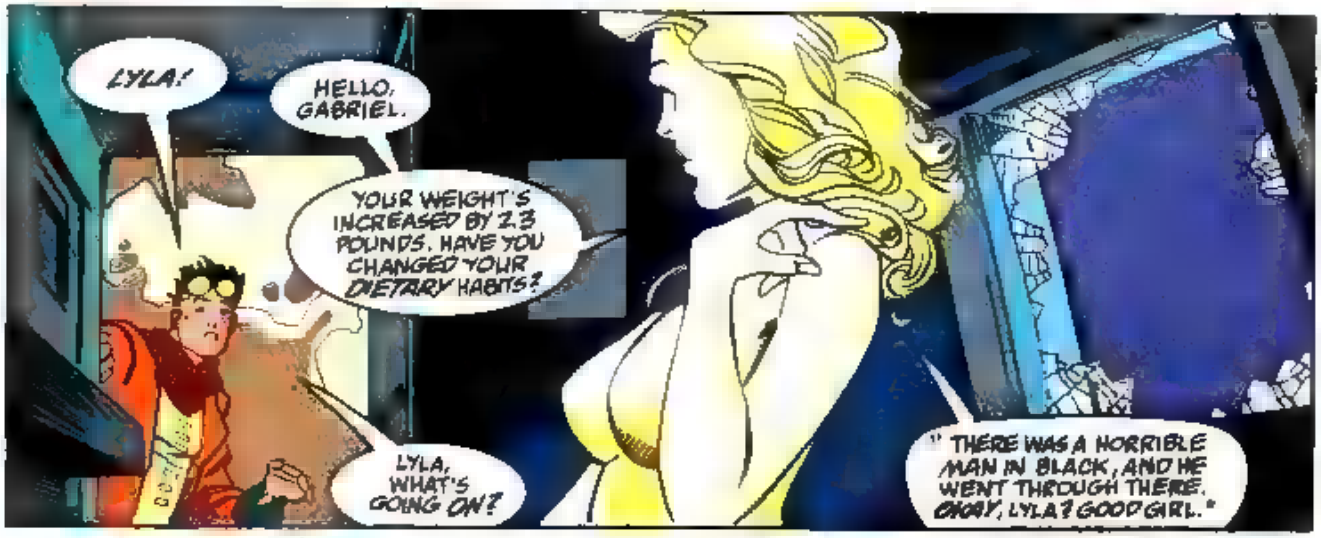
HOLEEE SHOCK.
THEY BOTH WENT RIGHT UP THE ELEVATOR SHAFT.
GOTTA GET UP TO MIGUEL'S PLACE... FAST!


THE NUMBNESS HAS WORN OFF MY ARM. BUT MY FOREARMS STILL ITCH LIKE THE DEVIL.
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON? AM I GOING TO SPROUT MORE ARMS OR SOMETHING?
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE, SON!
FOR SOMEONE WHO'S SO POSITIVE I CAN'T ESCAPE YOU SURE KEEP MENTIONING IT A LOT.

WELL, YOU GOT ME THERE, SON. ACTUALLY, I'M TALKING TO KEEP MYSELF AWAKE DURING YOUR "ESCAPE ATTEMPTS."
IT'S MORE POLITE THAN JUST YAWNING.
STARK FUJIKAWA
SAY NO TO PLUGS
I WONDER IF I GET ON PEOPLE'S NERVES THIS MUCH WHEN I MOUTH OFF AS MIGUEL?
WHOA!
I'M RUNNING OUT OF "WARNING SHOTS" PATIENCE, SON. MY GOAL IS TO BRING YOU BACK IN ONE PIECE...
BUT IF IT'S SEVERAL PIECES, THEN THAT'S YOUR CHOICE.
Huh?
WHERE'D HE GO?

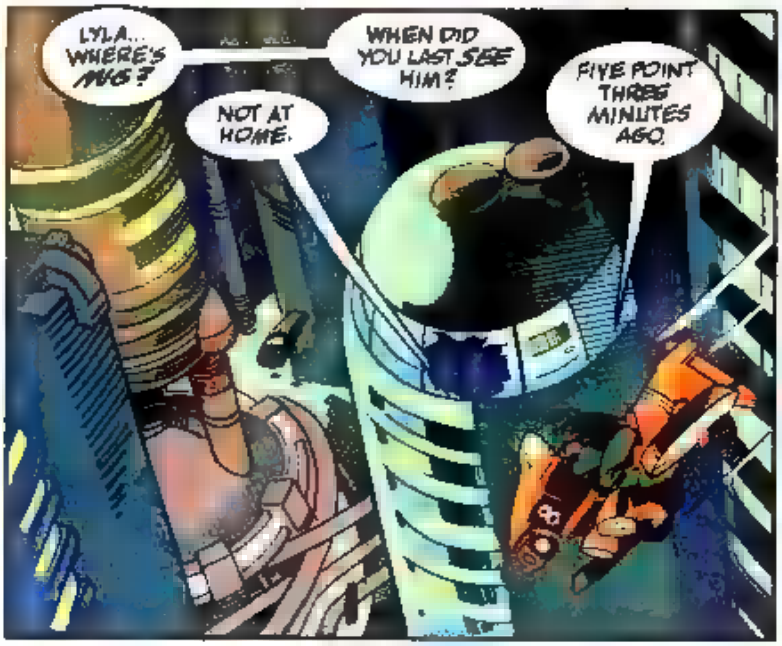
RIGHT HERE!
UNNHHHH!

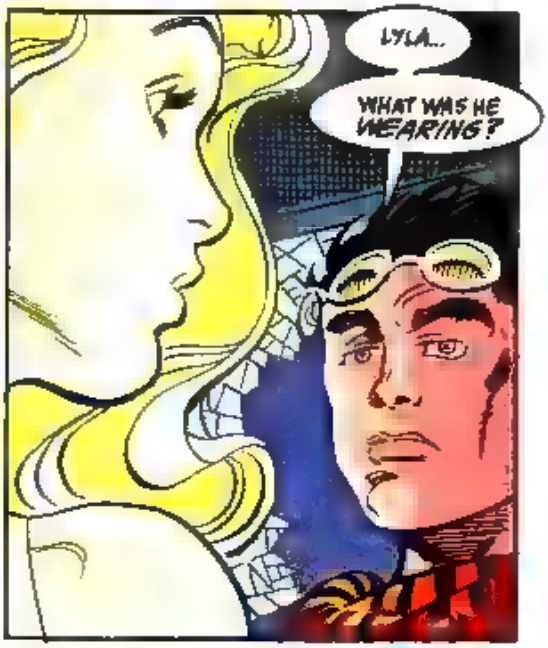
NICE MOVE, SON. SKITTERED BACK AROUND THE OTHER SIDE AND BUSH-WHACKED ME.
GOOD THINKING.
NOW IF YOU'D DONE SOME GOOD THINKING BEFORE WRECKING AN ALCHEMAX LAB...
ARRRGHHH!!
...YOU MIGHT HAVE AVOIDED SOME SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR YOURSELF.
AS IT IS...
YOU'RE DONE.
LET ME GO!
NO CAN DO, SON.
FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH...
YOU GAVE ME THE LONGEST WORKOUT I'VE HAD IN A WHILE.
REJOICE IN THE LITTLE VICTORIES, SPIDER-MAN...
BUT THE BIG VICTORY IS ALL MINE.

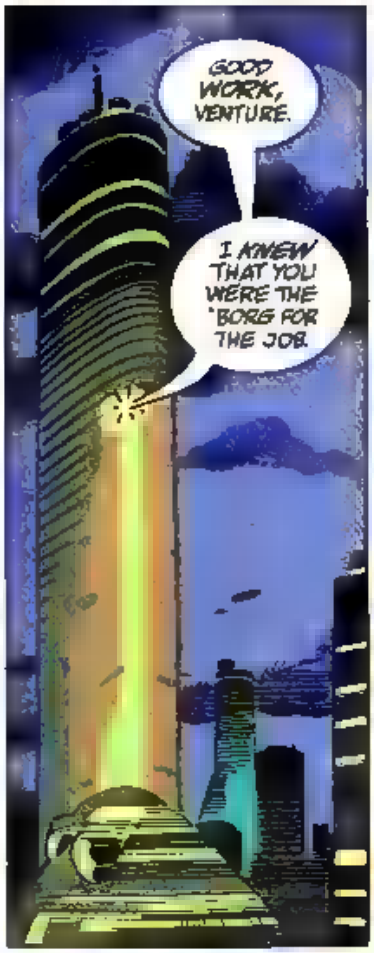

LYLA!
HELLO, GABRIEL.
YOUR WEIGHT'S INCREASED BY 2.3 POUNDS. HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR DIETARY HABITS?
LYLA, WHAT'S GOING ON?
" THERE WAS A HORRIBLE MAN IN BLACK, AND HE WENT THROUGH THERE. OKAY, LYLA? GOOD GIRL."

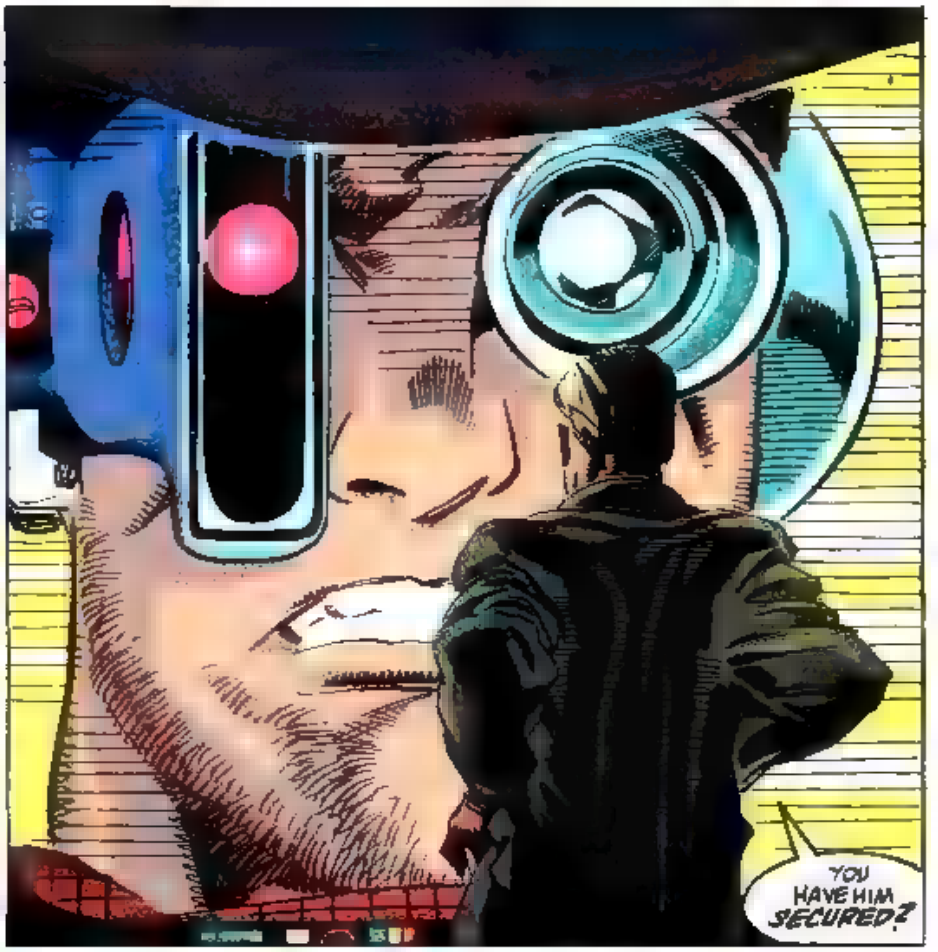
LYLA ...
WHAT
HAPPENED?

DESTRUCTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY. BUILDING SERVICE MAINTENANCE 'BOTS HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED. FULL DOOR AND WINDOW REPAIR AND CLEANUP IS PROJECTED TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN 37 MINUTES.
BUT WHY?!
BECAUSE THE REPAIRS ON ELEVATOR SHAFT #2 TAKE PRIORITY. NORMALLY DOOR AND WINDOW REPAIR AND CLEANUP WOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN 16 MINUTES.


LYLA... WHERE'S MAC?
WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE HIM?
NOT AT HOME.
FIVE POINT THREE MINUTES AGO.


LYLA...
WHAT WAS HE WEARING?

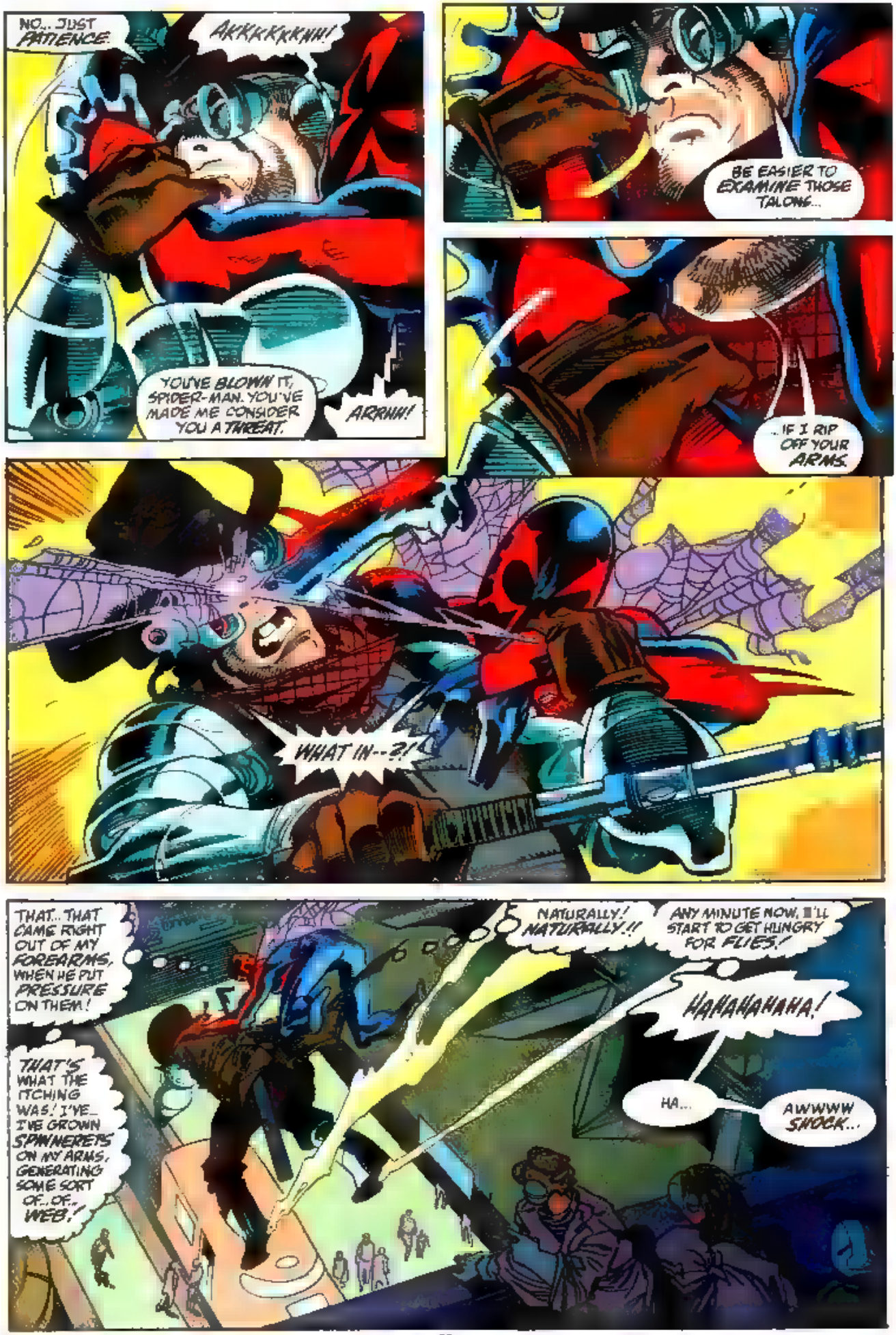

GOOD WORK, VENTURE.
I KNEW THAT YOU WERE THE 'BORG FOR THE JOB.


YOU HAVE HIM SECURED?

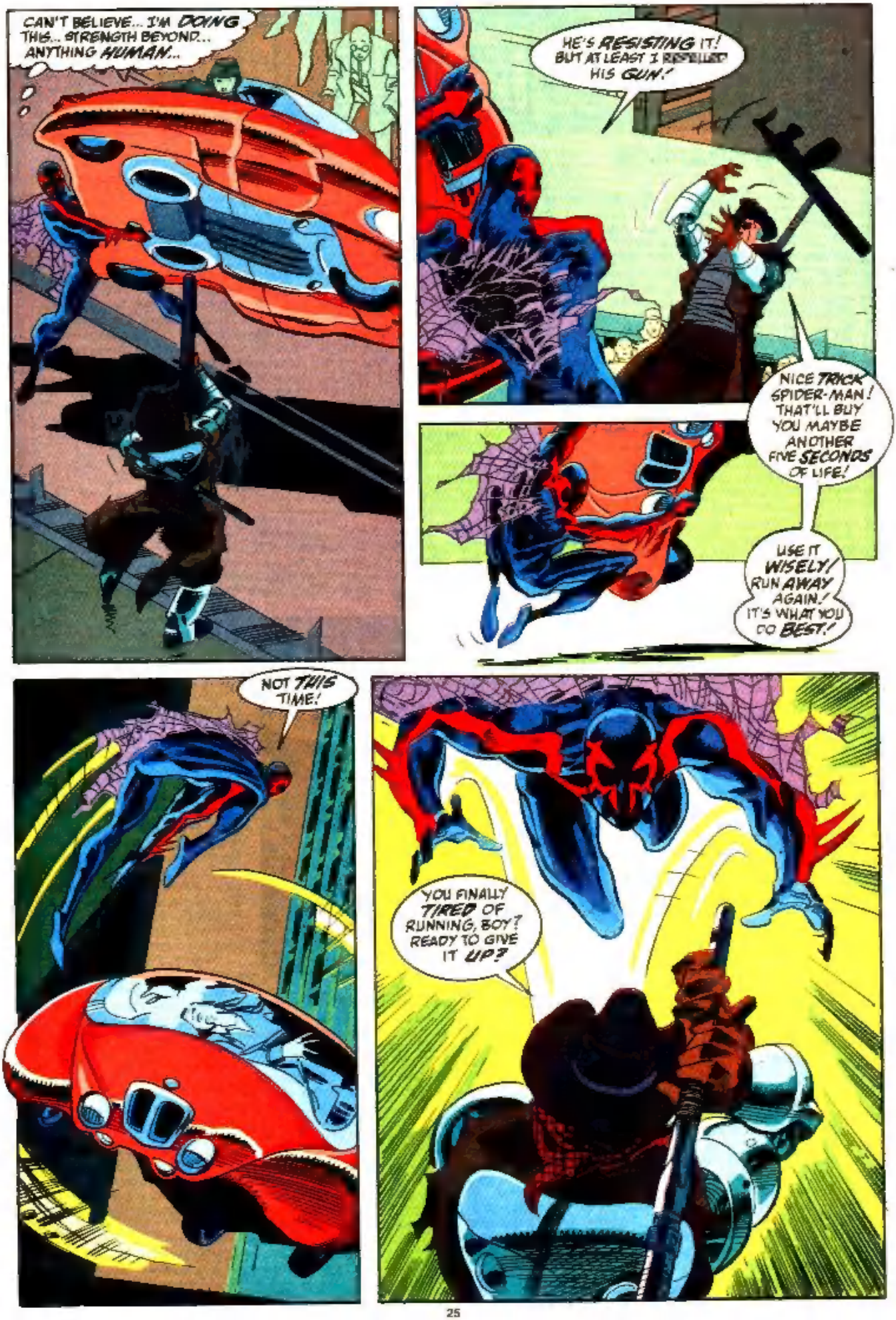
MOLECULARLY DENSE BODY WRAP.
EXCELLENT. THAT SHOULD HOLD HIM.
I HAVE A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT HIM... ALTHOUGH, IN SOME INSTANCES, THEY'RE REALLY NOT QUESTIONS SO MUCH AS... CONFIRMATIONS.

WHAT I'M PARTICULARLY INTRIGUED BY IS HIS ABILITY TO SCALE WALLS. ANY CLUE AS TO HOW HE DOES IT, VENTURE?
HE MOVED TOO QUICK FOR ME TO BE SURE. I PRESUME IT WAS SOME SORT OF SUCTION MECHANISM.
YOU'LL HAVE YOUR ANSWER SOON ENOUGH.

MAYBE EVEN SOONER THAN YOU THINK!
WHA--?!
HERE'S YOUR ANSWER! I'VE GOT TALONS ON MY FINGERS AND TOES! THEY'RE HANDY FOR CLIMBING WALLS AND SHREDDING THINGS -- LIKE BONDS --
AND JET MECHANISMS!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, VENTURE?
RUN OUT OF SMART REMARKS?


NO... JUST PATIENCE.
AKKKKKKKKH!
YOU'VE BLOWN IT, SPIDER-MAN. YOU'VE MADE ME CONSIDER YOU A THREAT.
ARRHH!
BE EASIER TO EXAMINE THOSE TALONS...
..IF I RIP OFF YOUR ARMS.
WHAT IN--?!
THAT... THAT CAME RIGHT OUT OF MY FOREARMS, WHEN HE PUT PRESSURE ON THEM!
THAT'S WHAT THE ITCHING WAS! I'VE... I'VE GROWN SPINNERETS ON MY ARMS, GENERATING SOME SORT OF... OF... WEB!
NATURALLY! NATURALLY!!
ANY MINUTE NOW, I'LL START TO GET HUNGRY FOR FLIES!
HAHAHAHAHA!
HA...
AWWWW SHOCK...

UNHFFFF!
ARRHHH!
AWRIGHT, BOY! I SEE YOU OVER THERE!
YOU ARE DEAD, SPIDER-MAN! DEAD!
THE MEOK HE SEES ME. HE'S AIMING TO MY LEFT. BUT IF HE STARTS SHOOTING INDISCRIMINATELY, PEOPLE ARE GOING TO GET KILLED!
THE MAGLEV CARS! THE MAGNETS GENERATE CURRENT THROUGH THE GUIDEWAY COILS, CREATING LIKE POLARITY!
HEY! STOP IT!!
IF I CAN CREATE A LIKE POLARITY IN VENTURE -- IT'LL REPEL HIM INTO THE NEXT COUNTY.


CAN'T BELIEVE... I'M DOING THIS... STRENGTH BEYOND... ANYTHING HUMAN...
HE'S RESISTING IT! BUT AT LEAST I REPELLED HIS GUN!
NICE TRICK SPIDER-MAN! THAT'LL BUY YOU MAYBE ANOTHER FIVE SECONDS OF LIFE!
USE IT WISELY! RUN AWAY AGAIN! IT'S WHAT YOU DO BEST!
NOT THIS TIME!
YOU FINALLY TIRED OF RUNNING, BOY? READY TO GIVE IT UP?

READY T'DIE?
NO! READY TO LIVE!
MY LEG! WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY LEG?!
I SLICED IT OPEN WITH THE TALONS ON MY FEET.
I'M FULL OF SURPRISES, VENTURE.
SOMETIMES... JUST SOME-TIMES...
I EVEN SURPRISE MYSELF.
NICE LIP, BOY! BUT YOU'RE STILL JUST A JERK IN A COSTUME! ME... I'M VENTURE! I EAT GUYS LIKE YOU FOR BREAKFAST!
THE GUN! THE GUN ITSELF WAS MAGNETIZED TO HIS METAL BACK! AND HE DOESN'T SEE IT COMING BACK!

THEN CHOKE ON THIS, COWBOY!
OOOOOOFF!
EEEEEEAAA

THEN THE CROWD STARTED CONVERGING, AND I GOT OUT OF THERE. I SPENT THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS CRISS-CROSSING THE CITY, SOMETIMES IN COSTUME, SOMETIMES OUT.
THAT WAY, IF ANY OTHER HEAT TRACKERS LIKE VENTURE TRIED TO TRACE ME, ALL THEY'D FIND WAS RANDOM TRACKING AND BACKTRACKING ALL OVER THE CITY.
ALL DURING THAT TIME I RAN THROUGH EVERY POSSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION IN MY MIND... ALL OF THEM CONFLICTING.
MY WHOLE LIFE... THERE'S NEVER BEEN A TIME WHEN I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. EVERYTHING WAS ALWAYS LAID OUT AND CLEAR. AND NOW... NOW IT'S ALL THIS BIG, ENDLESS VOID.
BUT I FINALLY DECIDED TO COME HOME. IF I'M GOING TO TRY AND CONTINUE THIS GAME, I HAVE TO GO BACK TO SQUARE ONE.
BESIDES... I FIGURE, I'VE GOT TALONS, FANGS, ACCELERATED VISION...
...WEB SPINNERS ALL OVER MY FOREARMS... WHICH BEATS SHOOTING WEBBING OUT MY BUTT, I SUPPOSE...
PLUS, MY FIANCEÉ IS TERRIFIED OF ME, MY BROTHER THINKS I'VE SOLD MY SOUL TO ALCHEMAX, AND MAYBE I HAVE... PLUS, VENTURE MAY BE BACK ON LINE EVEN NOW, THE PUBLIC EYE'S OUT TO GET ME...
WITH ALL THAT GOING FOR ME, HOW COULD THINGS POSSIBLY GET WORSE?
KNOK KNOK
MIKE, THIS IS TYLER STONE. I THINK WE SHOULD TALK... ABOUT SPIDER-MAN.
NEXT THINGS GET WORSE.